1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2	FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
3	LYNCHBURG DIVISION
4	
5	COREY J. OSBORNE,
6	Plaintiff,
7	-vs- Case No.: 6:20CV00079
8	WAL-MART EAST, LP, et al.,
9	Defendants.
10	
11	
12	
13	REMOTE VIDEOCONFERENCE DEPOSITION OF
14	SETH HARRIS
15	Monday, December 13, 2021
16	10:04 a.m.
17	Pages 1 - 60
18	Reported by: Tracy W. Koschara, Court Reporter
19	
20	
21	
22	EVANS & COMPANY
23	Post Office Box 11822
24	Lynchburg, Virginia 24506
25	(434) 239–2552

1	Page 2 Remote videoconference deposition of SETH
2	HARRIS taken by Tracy W. Koschara, eNotary Public in
3	and for the Commonwealth of Virginia, taken pursuant
4	to Notice, commencing at 10:04 a.m., December 13,
5	2021.
6	
7	REMOTE APPEARANCES:
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFF:
9	M. PAUL VALOIS, ESQUIRE
10	JAMES RIVER LEGAL ASSOCIATES
11	7601 Timberlake Road
12	Lynchburg, Virginia 24502
13	434.845.4529
14	mvalois@vbclegal.com
15	
16	ON BEHALF OF DEFENDANTS:
17	G. BETHANY INGLE, ESQUIRE
18	LITTLER MENDELSON, PC
19	1650 Tysons Boulevard, Suite 700
20	Tysons Corner, Virginia 22102
21	703.442.8245
22	GIngle@littler.com
23	ALSO PRESENT:
24	Judy Valois via Zoom
25	

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4	By Mr. Valois	4
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7	EXHIBITS	
8	NO. DESCRIPTION	PAGE
9	Exhibit 15 Job Description	25
10	Exhibit 2 AP-09 Policy	42
11	Exhibit 6 Disciplinary Policy	43
12		
13	REPORTER'S NOTE: Exhibits were marked out	of
14	order pursuant to Plaintiff's counsel's request.	
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	10, 0E11101112/10	-
1		Page 4 PROCEEDINGS
2		SETH HARRIS,
3	having	been duly sworn, testified as follows:
4	E	XAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF:
5	BY MR. VA	LOIS:
6	Q	Sir, would you mind stating your full name,
7	please?	
8	A	My name is Seth Randall Harris.
9	Q	And you understand that you're here for a
10	depositio	on today?
11	A	Yes, sir.
12	Q	Have you ever given a deposition before?
13	A	Yes, sir.
14	Q	And in what context? What kind of case was
15	it?	
16	A	In times whenever I was in criminal
17	proceedin	gs as law enforcement, and then also as a
18	witness f	or shoplifting prior in-operations for
19	Wal-Mart.	
20	Q	All right. So you're no stranger to
21	depositio	ons, then?
22	A	No, sir.
23	Q	You do understand that you're under oath
24	now?	
25	A	Yes.

1		
	1	Q And you understand the significance of
	2	being under oath as you testify?
	3	A Yes, sir.
	4	Q All right. Are you ready to answer my
	5	questions today?
	6	A Yes, sir.
	7	Q I'm going to assume if I ask a question
	8	that you understand the question, unless you tell me
	9	differently?
	10	A Yes, sir.
	11	Q If you don't understand the question or if
	12	I phrase it in a confusing manner, please tell me so,
	13	and I will attempt to phrase it in a different manner
	14	so that you can answer the question.
	15	A Yes, sir.
	16	Q You understand that the case is being
	17	recorded by a court reporter?
	18	A Yes, sir.
	19	Q And I'll tell you that you're doing a
	20	better job than I do, but it's important that we take
	21	turns talking in order to let the court reporter get
	22	everything down.
	23	A Yes, sir.
	24	Q And so to that end, if you would allow me
	25	to finish asking my entire question, I will do my

									Page 6
1	best	to	let	vou	finish	giving	vour	complete	answer.

- 2 Can we agree to that?
- 3 A Yes, sir.
- 4 Q All right. Are you under the influence of
- 5 any medications or drugs or anything else that would
- 6 affect your testimony?
- 7 A No, sir.
- 8 Q I don't know how long this deposition will
- 9 take. I don't anticipate it will take extremely
- 10 long, but if at any time during this deposition you
- 11 need a break for any purpose, please just let me know
- 12 and we will accommodate that request.
- 13 A Yes, sir.
- 14 Q During breaks, please understand you're not
- 15 to discuss your testimony while you're on breaks.
- 16 A Yes, sir.
- 17 Q All right. Well, what did you do to
- 18 prepare for this deposition?
- 19 A I reviewed any case files that I may have
- 20 had as far as prior communication with anything with
- 21 Mr. Osborne.
- 22 Q What in particular? Which files did you
- 23 review?
- 24 A The e-mails that were discussing basically
- 25 whenever we had legal documentation that was

HARRI	IS, SETH on 12/13/2021 Page 7
1	Page 7 requested. Beyond that, I didn't have anything prior
2	to the actual legal request that discussed
3	Mr. Osborne at all.
4	A Have you reviewed any of the documents
5	related to the incident that led to his termination?
6	A I reviewed witness statements.
7	Q All right. And are you aware that there
8	was a video?
9	A Yes, I was.
10	Q Have you reviewed the video?
11	A I did not.
12	Q Have you spoken to anyone besides your
13	attorney regarding this case?
14	A Other than the APASM that was
15	Q Let's deal with those acronyms now because
16	we want to get them out of the way. Can you please
17	tell us what an APASM is?
18	A Other than the asset protection store
19	manager that brought the issue during the time of
20	questioning, I have not discussed the case with
21	anybody else since the time of the incident.
22	Q And who is the APASM? What is the name of
23	that person?
24	A That would be I'm drawing a blank here.
25	It was in the store at the time. I will have to

	5, 5L11101112/15/2021 1 age o
1	reference that.
2	Q Where are you physically located right now,
3	sir?
4	A I'm at home at 1329 Johns Berry Court in
5	Roanoke, Virginia.
6	Q And is there anyone there with you?
7	A My girlfriend is on the other side of the
8	house.
9	Q All right. Are you in communication with
10	anyone right now by text or social media app or
11	anything like that?
12	A No. My phone is across the room.
13	Q Can we commit for the duration of this
14	deposition to refrain from communicating with other
15	people
16	A Yes, sir.
17	Q about the subject matter here?
18	A Yes, sir.
19	Q Okay. Have you signed any agreements or
20	any memorandum of understanding that would limit your
21	ability to testify today?
22	A No.
23	Q Are you bound by any corporate policy in
24	any way which would prevent you from fully and
25	completely answering my questions today?

1	A	No.
2	Q	Thank you.
3		All right. I'm going to talk a little bit
4	about you	r background, if we could. How old are you,
5	sir?	
6	A	I'm 39.
7	Q	And when did you start working for
8	Wal-Mart?	
9	A	This time around, I began in May of 2009.
10	Q	Okay. So did you have more than one stint
11	in Wal-Ma	rt?
12	A	Yes. Whenever I was in college, I was also
13	employed	with Wal-Mart as well.
14	Q	Okay. So 2009 when did you graduate
15	from high	school?
16	A	2001.
17	Q	And where did you go to high school?
18	A	Mt. Vernon Senior High School in
19	Mt. Verno	on, Indiana.
20	Q	And after high school did you go to
21	college?	
22	A	Yes, I did.
23	Q	And where did you go to college?
24	A	University of Southern Indiana in
25	Evansvill	e, Indiana.

1	Q And was it during this period that you
2	worked at Wal-Mart?
3	A Yes, it was.
4	Q What was your position there during this
5	period?
6	A I had two different positions. I started
7	off as a sporting goods associate, and then began as
8	a first-in-line trainee, basically an intern program.
9	Q All right. And this is while you were in
10	college in Indiana?
11	A Yes, sir.
12	Q And did you obtain a degree?
13	A Yes, I did.
14	Q What year did you obtain your degree?
15	A 2007.
16	Q And what was your degree in?
17	A Business management with an emphasis in
18	human resources and labor relations.
19	Q And were you an intern with Wal-Mart when
20	you graduated?
21	A No, I was not.
22	Q Aside from Wal-Mart have you worked
23	anywhere else?
24	A Yes.
25	Q Where else have you worked?

	O, OL 111 011 12/10/2	-
1	A	Page 11 I worked for Deaconess Hospital as
2	security.	I worked for the Department of Homeland
3	Security	as a board patrol agent.
4	Q	And where is Deaconess Hospital?
5	A	That is in Evansville, Indiana.
6	Q	How long did you work there?
7	A	I want to say approximately two years.
8	Q	And were you a security officer?
9	A	I was a board coordinator and security
10	officer.	
11	Q	Why did you leave that position?
12	A	I took a role with the Department of
13	Homeland	Security.
14	Q	And you worked for border protection?
15	A	Yes, sir, border patrol.
16	Q	And where was that? Was it the northern
17	border or	southern border?
18	A	Southern border in San Diego.
19	Q	What was your role then?
20	A	I was a border patrol agent.
21	Q	And were you assigned to any particular
22	region?	
23	A	Yes, the El Cajon sector.
24	Q	How long did you work there?
25	A	Two years.

	O, OL 111 OII 12/10	•
1	Q	And why did you leave that position?
2	A	An injury resulted in my inability to
3	return to	service.
4	Q	Was it a work-related injury?
5	A	Yes, it was.
6	Q	Do you receive benefits because of that
7	injury?	
8	A	I do not.
9	Q	Do you have any lingering effects because
10	of that i	njury?
11	A	I do not.
12	Q	And so after you left that position what
13	did you d	0?
14	A	I was unemployed for some time, and then I
15	was offer	ed and took a position back with Wal-Mart.
16	Q	How long were you unemployed after leaving
17	the borde	r patrol?
18	A	Roughly six months.
19	Q	And when you hired back on with Wal-Mart,
20	where wer	e you hired?
21	A	In Marshall, Illinois.
22	Q	Is that close to where you grew up?
23	A	It is about two hours away.
24	Q	How did you end up in Marshall, Illinois?
25	A	One of the individuals that was a manager

וואואו	3, 3E11101112/13/2021 1 age 13
1	Page 13 whenever I was a trainee was a store manager up in
2	that area, that whenever he found out that I was in
3	need of employment, he reached out to me and offered
4	a position.
5	Q Okay. And your initial position there was
6	what?
7	A An overnight support manager.
8	Q How long did you hold that position?
9	A Roughly, ten months.
10	Q And what happened next? What was your next
11	position at Wal-Mart?
12	A I went into store planning.
13	Q What does store planning mean?
14	A Basically a remodel team that traveled the
15	country working on remodel or expansion or new store
16	projects and setup.
17	Q All right. And so and then how long did
18	you hold that position?
19	A About three years.
20	Q All right. So that takes us to about 2013?
21	Is that about right?
22	A Yes, sir.
23	Q Where did you go from there?
24	A I went back into operations as an assistant
25	store manager.

пипп	13, 3E 1 F 011 12/13	-
1	Q	Page 14 And where was that?
2	A	That was in Urbana, Illinois.
3	Q	How long were you an assistant store
4	manager?	
5	A	For a year.
6	Q	And so then where?
7	A	I became a co-manager in Evansville,
8	Indiana.	
9	Q	Co-manager is a step up from assistant
10	manager?	
11	A	Correct, sir.
12	Q	Okay. And how long did you hold that
13	position?	
14	A	Roughly 15, 16 months.
15	Q	All right. And then what?
16	A	And then onto as a market human resource
17	manager.	
18	Q	Is that your current position now?
19	A	Our role was converted about a year and a
20	half ago	to market people operations lead.
21	Q	Are the duties the same or do you get
22	did you p	pick up more work?
23	A	We essentially picked up more work to be in
24	more alig	nment with operational functions.
25	Q	So in your current role in your current

	Page 15
1	role, are you still you said people relationship
2	manager; is that what you said?
3	A People operations lead.
4	Q Operations lead, I'm sorry, is it still a
5	human resources-type function?
6	A I would say it's more people-focused, but
7	more along the lines of staffing and
8	
9	(Remote transmission interruption)
10	(Recess, 10:17 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.)
11	
12	MR. VALOIS: Let's go ahead and strike that
13	question and partial answer and I will reask it. We
14	are back on the record.
15	BY MR. VALOIS:
16	Q Mr. Harris, some of your answer was
17	truncated, so I'm going to start with a new question;
18	all right?
19	A Yes, sir.
20	Q Your newest title up until now, I've
21	kind of been going forward in time, but now I'm kind
22	of going to go backward in time. Your newest
23	position is a people operations lead?
24	A Yes, sir.
25	Q Is that right?

1	Page 16 A (Indicating in the affirmative).
2	Q And you said that that involves more than
3	just HR; is that right?
4	A Yes, sir.
5	Q Can you tell me what it involves?
6	A Our position is more centrally focused on
7	staffing, on training and on development and
8	implementation of new positions, rather than I
9	would say more of the generalist HR positions such as
10	benefits, employment decisions, things of that
11	nature. And we've kind of moved into a more tactical
12	standpoint.
13	Q Is it fair to characterize that as more of
14	a planning-type thing than an operational-type thing?
15	A I think the company would like to see it as
16	both.
17	Q Okay. But prior to that, you were a human
18	resources manager?
19	A That's correct.
20	Q And is that a regional position?
21	A It is a market-level position, sir.
22	Q Can you describe what "market-level" means?
23	A Starting from the store level, the stores
24	are grouped into markets which are in a geographical
25	location, and those markets normally consisted of

Page 17 Page 17

1	anywhere	from	6	to	roughly	12	stores,	I	do	believe.	
	4				2 1		,				

- 2 Those markets are then grouped into a larger
- 3 geographical area and into regional and so on and so
- 4 forth. But a market is normally made up of 6 to 12
- 5 stores in a geographic area.
- 6 Q Okay. So kind of like a sub-region?
- 7 A Yes, sir.
- 8 Q So in your capacity, you had -- you were
- 9 the human resources manager for 6 to 12 stores?
- 10 A At that period, it depends. I've had
- 11 single and dual markets throughout my position as
- 12 both a market human resource manager and a market
- 13 people ops.
- 14 Q What is the difference between a single and
- 15 a dual position?
- 16 A Having more than one market.
- 17 Q Okay. So there were periods where you
- 18 managed one market and then there were periods where
- 19 you managed human resources for more than one; is
- 20 that right?
- 21 A Yes, sir.
- 22 Q And depending on the period of time the
- 23 markets may be of a different store alignment. It
- 24 may be a totally different market altogether,
- 25 depending on whenever the coverage would call for it

1	Page 18 at the time.
2	Q How many employees does the average
3	Wal-Mart have?
4	A Just on a brief estimate, I would say 200,
5	maybe.
6	Q So if a market has 6 to 12, that's an
7	average of about 8; right?
8	A I would say that's typical, yes, sir.
9	Q And 280, you said, employees per store?
10	A Yes, sir.
11	Q So that would mean that you are managing
12	human resources for 1300 people, approximately; is
13	that right?
14	A I would say the majority of my period of
15	time in coverage, it would also be double markets, so
16	more along the lines of my head count is normally
17	above 3,000.
18	Q All right. And so in your capacity, do you
19	do were you involved in hiring at all?
20	A For salary level and above.
21	Q And were you involved in employee
22	grievances at all?
23	MS. INGLE: Object to the form.
24	THE WITNESS: If an associate had a concern
25	and discussed it with their supervisors and the store

1	Page 19 manager, then the market would do a review upon the
2	associate's request.
3	BY MR. VALOIS:
4	Q All right. And were you involved in, I
5	guess, routine discipline?
6	A Routine discipline, I would say no. Only
7	things that were either employment impacting to the
8	point where somebody may lose their position or a
9	multiple-level disciplinary action or circumstances
10	that were unfamiliar with the management team, but
11	not typical day-to-day routines of disciplinary
12	actions or just overall oversight.
13	So, for instance, if attendance of an
14	associate wasn't showing up for work, that's fairly
15	typical that we see. That would be almost fully to
16	the store's discretion because it doesn't have
17	anything out of the ordinary along those lines.
18	Q Okay. And who do you report to at
19	Wal-Mart?
20	A I report to a regional people operations
21	director.
22	Q Who is that person?
23	A Currently, it is Kirsten Frey, F-R-E-Y.
24	Q Who was it back in May of 2020 when this
25	incident took place?

1	Page 20 A That would have been we did not have a
2	supervisor at that time.
3	Q And as of as a market human resources
4	manager, did you have subordinates, people that
5	answered to you?
6	A No, no direct reports.
7	Q Okay. And what was your salary?
8	A My salary at the time currently or
9	Q At the time in May of 2020.
10	MS. INGLE: Objection to relevance.
11	BY MR. VALOIS:
12	Q You can answer.
13	A I would have to make an estimate, but I
14	couldn't give you an exact figure.
15	Q Well, give me your best estimate.
16	A I would say around 80,000.
17	Q All right. And have you been involved in
18	EEO complaints before this one?
19	A Yes.
20	Q Have you ever been named as a responsible
21	management official in an EEOC complaint before?
22	A No.
23	MS. INGLE: Objection to form.
24	BY MR. VALOIS:
25	Q Do you know what a responsible management

	Dago 01
1	official is in the context of an EEOC complaint?
2	A Yes.
3	Q And with that understanding, have you ever
4	been named a responsible management official in an
5	EEO complaint by an employee of Wal-Mart?
6	A No.
7	Q Have you ever met Corey Osborne?
8	A I have not. Not to my recollection, I have
9	not met him before.
10	Q You're aware that he was employed at the
11	Wal-Mart on Wards Road?
12	A Yes.
13	Q In Lynchburg?
14	A Yes, correct.
15	Q And at the time, that was within your
16	purview as market resources manager?
17	A Yes, sir.
18	Q And so those employees came under your
19	auspices; right?
20	A Yes, sir.
21	Q Have you ever been to that store?
22	A Yes, I have.
23	Q Had you been to that store on or before
24	May 9th of 2020?
25	A Yes, sir.

	,
1	Page 22 Q In your role as market human resources
2	manager, how much time did you spend actually in
3	stores versus in the office?
4	A I would say 60 to 70 percent of the time.
5	Q 60 to 70 percent of the time in stores or
6	in the office?
7	A We are we actually office in the stores.
8	Q I'm sorry?
9	A We office in the stores.
10	Q So you don't have, like, a home office?
11	A We have a market office, but it is in a
12	store as well.
13	Q What store was that located in?
14	A At the time, it was that store where we
15	had the market office was located in Staunton,
16	Virginia.
17	Q Do you know Corey Osborne's race?
18	A I do not.
19	Q Did you review his personnel file before
20	making the termination decision?
21	A I did not.
22	Q You have reviewed the witness statements,
23	however?
24	A Yes.
25	Q At this point I'm going to try and put

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14	Ochomola ÷	-11	 - Ol

- 1 Mr. Osborne's job description on the screen. Okay.
- 2 If you could just give me a second to do that. I'm
- 3 having technology issues. Can you see anything on
- 4 the screen?
- 5 A Yes, sir. I see it now.
- 6 MR. VALOIS: For the record, this is a
- 7 document that's been provided in discovery beginning
- 8 with Bates number WM-Osborne 000036.
- 9 BY MR. VALOIS:
- 10 Q Sir, can you look at this document and --
- 11 just the top of this document, and tell me what this
- 12 document is.
- 13 A This is a Wal-mart job description for an
- 14 asset protection associate as it pertains to, I would
- 15 say the vast majority but not necessarily all asset
- 16 protection associates at the time whenever this
- 17 essential function job description was created by the
- 18 company.
- 19 Q And Corey Osborne was, in fact, an asset
- 20 protection associate; correct?
- 21 A Yes, sir.
- 22 Q And this document is provided to employees
- 23 when they are hired; correct?
- 24 A Correct.
- 25 Q And employees are expected to perform the

Page 24 Page 24

1	essential	functions	of	the	position	using	this	
---	-----------	-----------	----	-----	----------	-------	------	--

- 2 description as guidance; is that correct?
- 3 A Yes, sir.
- 4 Q We see after the official functions -- and
- 5 I'm not going to labor with you reading all of these
- 6 verbatim. We don't want to be here all day. I'm
- 7 going to ask you just to read them yourself and tell
- 8 me when you're finished reading them if there is
- 9 anything in there that you disagree with or you think
- 10 is incorrect. Just the section underneath essential
- 11 functions for now.
- 12 A Yes.
- MR. VALOIS: Madam court reporter, while
- 14 he's doing that, I am going to offer this -- I have
- 15 labeled it as Exhibit 15.
- 16 THE REPORTER: Yes, sir. Do you want me to
- 17 call it Exhibit 1?
- 18 MR. VALOIS: Whatever is easier for you.
- 19 THE WITNESS: To the best of my
- 20 recollection, this is all within the guidelines. To
- 21 the best of my recollection, this is in all order,
- 22 yes, sir.
- MR. VALOIS: All right. And, Madam Court
- 24 Reporter, I have gone through my list of questions
- 25 using the exhibit numbers as I've labeled them. If

Page 25

Page 25 it's easier for me to call it Exhibit 1, that's fine, 1 but if we could just leave it Exhibit 15 and take them out of order, I think that might be the easiest 3 4 way. 5 THE REPORTER: Yes. 6 (Harris Deposition Exhibit Number 15 was 7 marked for identification) 8 9 BY MR. VALOIS: 10 11 Q Sir, could you go down next and do the same 12 thing for the section called "Comptencies." 13 read through those and see if there's anything that 14 you disagree with in that list of "Competencies." 15 Everything seems to be in order with the 16 "Competencies" area as well, sir. 17 Q All right. Very good. 18 Moving down to the next section, "Physical 19 Activities." There are only two sentences there. they look okay? 20 21 Yes, sir. A 22 Anything you disagree with there? 0 23 A No, sir. 24 Oh, I'm sorry, there are some more 25 "Physical Activities" that continue on the next page.

Page 26 Page 26

1	Can	you	look	through	those	and	make	sure	that	you	

- 2 agree with all those requirements?
- 3 A Yes, sir.
- 4 Q Is there anything that you disagree with
- 5 there?
- 6 A No, sir. It is all in order.
- 7 Q And moving on, we have "Work Environment,"
- 8 two sentences there, can you read those and tell me
- 9 whether you agree with those?
- 10 A I agree with those, sir.
- 11 Q And the last one "Entry Requirements," any
- 12 problem with those sentences there?
- 13 A No, sir.
- 14 Q All right. And finally, there appears to
- 15 be a place where an employee has to acknowledge this.
- 16 You can see in this particular exhibit, that is blank
- 17 and unacknowledged; is that correct?
- 18 A Yes, sir.
- 19 Q There we go. Okay. I'm going to go back
- 20 and get to this one. Let me see. And so who
- 21 investigated the report of the incident that was
- 22 alleged to have occurred on May 9th of 2020 that
- 23 resulted in Mr. Osborne's termination?
- 24 A That would be the asset protection
- 25 assistant store manager at the time.

	D 07
1	Page 27 Q Who is that?
2	A Once again, I would need to reference the
3	listing in order to bring up that individual's name.
4	Q But you made the decision to terminate?
5	A I made the recommendation, yes.
6	Q Who made the decision? Ultimately, whose
7	decision was it?
8	A Well, the decision is because since the
9	termination is actually taken care of by the direct
10	supervisor, the direct supervisor would be the one to
11	make the decision in order to carry it out.
12	Recommendations are obviously going to be highly
13	weighted, but our job is to advise, and then our
14	recommendation can either be pushed back and if the
15	operator disagrees or the supervisor disagrees.
16	Q So is it my understanding that you made a
17	recommendation to Mr. Osborne's direct supervisor?
18	A Yes.
19	Q And it was the direct supervisor's decision
20	to terminate?
21	A It would actually be the facility manager
22	under these circumstances.
23	Q I'm sorry, who is the facility manager?
24	A That would have been Ryan Fisher at the
25	time.
1	

	Page 28
1	Q And a facility manager, is that different
2	than the store manager?
3	A No.
4	Q Is that synonymous with the term "store
5	manager"?
6	A Yes, sir.
7	Q If someone walked in the door to the
8	Wal-Mart and asked to speak to the store manager, it
9	would be Mr. Fisher that they would be talking about?
10	A Yes, sir.
11	Q So you advised Mr. Fisher, and Mr. Fisher
12	made the decision?
13	MS. INGLE: Objection, mischaracterizes
14	testimony.
15	THE WITNESS: Yes.
16	MR. VALOIS: I'm sorry, I couldn't hear the
17	objection.
18	MS. INGLE: I said, "Objection,
19	mischaracterizes previous testimony.
20	MR. VALOIS: Oh, well, I don't want to do
21	that.
22	BY MR. VALOIS:
23	Q So who did you give advice to?
24	A The asset protection store manager.
25	Q And you don't remember that person's name?

HAKK	als, SETH on 12/13/2021	Page 29
1	A I do	not recall at this time.
2	Q But	when you gave advice to that person,
3	was it your un	derstanding that Mr. Fisher would be
4	the one who ul	timately made the termination decision?
5	A The	information would be routed to him,
6	yes.	
7	Q And	you knew that at the time you made your
8	recommendation	?
9	A Yes,	sir.
10	Q And	that would be the standard procedure
11	within Wal-Mar	t at that time?
12	A Yes.	
13	Q And	how were you advised of this situation
14	to begin with?	
15	A The	assistant the asset protection
16	assistant stor	e manager actually brought it to my
17	attention verb	ally while I was in the store
18	physically off	icing for the day.
19	Q I'm	sorry, what?
20	A Offi	cing for the day. I was operating in
21	an administrat	ive function in an office during that
22	day.	
23	Q An o	ffice at the Lynchburg store on Wards
24	Road?	
25	A Yes,	sir.

1	Page 30 Q When you're officing, is that like a
2	(inaudible) desk arrangement?
3	A Yes.
4	Q And so you were approached initially by the
5	person whose name you don't remember right now?
6	A Correct.
7	Q Okay. And had a verbal conversation?
8	A Yes.
9	Q When did this verbal conversation occur?
10	A I can't remember the exact date.
11	Q Are these the kinds of things that should
12	have been documented in the employee's personnel
13	file?
14	A Not necessarily.
15	Q Is there a policy of not what should be
16	documented in an employee's file when there are
17	allegations of misconduct?
18	A Not in this case, I don't believe so.
19	Q Is there a general policy at Wal-mart that
20	governs on May 20th of 2020, was there a policy
21	that in general governed what should happen when an
22	allegation of misconduct was made as to
23	documentation?
24	MS. INGLE: Objection to form.
25	THE WITNESS: Not to my knowledge.

25

Q

	Y J. OSBORNE vs WAL-MART EAST S, SETH on 12/13/2021 Page 31
1	Page 31 BY MR. VALOIS:
2	Q So what was the substance of this
3	communication from this assistant asset protection
4	person?
5	A Essentially stating the fact that he
6	believed that there was a policy violation on a bad
7	stop that he was looking into and was looking to get
8	a recommendation on what disciplinary actions may
9	come of the bad stop.
10	At that point I told him to go get the
11	normally requested information and to complete his
12	investigation prior to receiving a recommendation,
13	and at that point he left, completed his
14	investigation and then returned with statements and
15	information that he received from reviewing footage
16	on videotape.
17	Q And then, did you have any more
18	communication with him after that?
19	A I made the recommendation to
20	terminate and
21	Q Well, let me rephrase. That was maybe
22	confusing. You had this initial verbal
23	communication?
24	A Right.

You told him to go get more information and

паппі	5, 5ETH on 12/13/2021 Page 32
1	Page 32 to conduct the proper investigation; is that right?
2	A Essentially. I sent him to conduct the
3	investigation; that way, I could make a
4	recommendation based on that information.
5	Q Right. And then was there after that
6	initial verbal communicatin, was there any other
7	communication with this individual?
8	A No.
9	Q Well but, you ended up making a
10	recommendation; correct?
11	A Right. Once he returned with the
12	investigation that was completed
13	Q That's what I'm asking you about. But how
14	did he return with the investigation?
15	A Verbal, same thing
16	MS. INGLE: Objection, argumentative.
17	MR. VALOIS: I'm sorry?
18	MS. INGLE: I said "Objection,
19	argumentative." Let him answer the question.
20	BY MR. VALOIS:
21	Q Okay. So after let me rephrase the
22	question.
23	So, Mr. Harris, you had an initial verbal
24	communication?
25	A Right.

-	•	Page 33			
1	Q	And then you asked him to go acquire more			
2	information?				
3	A	Yes, sir.			
4	Q	And then did you have any subsequent			
5	communicat	tion with him?			
6	A	Yes. He returned with his completed			
7	investiga	tion.			
8	Q	Was this on the same day?			
9	A	Yes, it was, sir.			
10	Q	All right. And although you don't remember			
11	the day,	you're certain it was the same day; is that			
12	correct?				
13	A	Yes, sir.			
14	Q	Did you have any other communication with			
15	anyone be	fore you made your recommendation?			
16	A	No, sir.			
17	Q	Okay. Did you receive any copies of the			
18	witness st	tatements before you made your			
19	recommenda	ation?			
20	A	Yes. I received physical copies.			
21	Q	How were those provided to you?			
22	A	By the assistant by the asset protection			
23	assistant	store manager.			
24	Q	In person?			
25	A	Yes.			

	Page 34
1	Q He just handed them to you?
2	A Yes.
3	Q When you reviewed them, did you review them
4	with him present?
5	A Yes.
6	Q When I say "him," I'm jumping to a
7	conclusion, a sexist conclusion. I apologize.
8	The assistant asset management protection
9	officer, do you remember whether it was a male or
10	female?
11	A Male.
12	Q Okay. So did you review that information
13	with him?
14	A Yes.
15	Q All right. And did you you made your
16	recommendation on the spot right there?
17	A Yes.
18	Q Was there anyone else present at this time
19	when you made your recommendation?
20	A I do not recall.
21	Q And it was your understanding that this
22	asset protection manager would relay your
23	recommendation to Mr. Fisher for a final
24	determination?
25	A Yes.

	Page 35
1	Q Did you consult with anyone else prior to
2	making this recommendation?
3	A No.
4	Q And essentially the recommendation was
5	based on a violation of a specific Wal-Mart policy;
6	is that correct?
7	A Yes, sir.
8	Q And that policy is an asset protection
9	policy?
10	A Yes, sir.
11	Q And it's called AP-09. Are you familiar
12	with that policy?
13	A I am, sir.
14	Q And that's the policy that Mr. Osborne was
15	alleged to have violated?
16	A Yes, sir.
17	Q And so well, I hate to do this to you,
18	but I'm going to have to put this one on the screen,
19	too. Give me just a second, please.
20	All right. Mr. Harris, do you see
21	something that popped up on your screen?
22	A Yes, sir.
23	Q Can you tell us what the title of that
24	document is?
25	A It's the "Investigation and Detention of

1

		Page 36
Shoplifters	Policy."	

- 2 Q And is this the policy -- what does this
- 3 policy do? Let me ask you that. What is its intent?
- 4 A So the AP-09 policy is a general,
- 5 all-purpose asset protection policy for Wal-Mart.
- 6 Q All right. And what guidance does it give
- 7 to employees?
- 8 A It gives guidance in multiple different
- 9 ways. As far as investigations, this one states
- 10 clearly, investigation detention of shoplifters, but
- 11 also gets into things such as insider trading,
- 12 ethics, violations, things along those guidelines.
- 13 It a very large policy within the company that
- 14 involves anything that would basically pertain to
- 15 anything of worth within the company.
- 16 Q Right. So it covers all kinds of stuff.
- 17 It covers, you know, fraudulent uses of debit cards,
- 18 merchandise going out the backdoor, a lot of things
- 19 that aren't really relevant to this case; right?
- 20 A Correct, sir.
- 21 Q With regard to the allegations in this
- 22 case, it also covers surveillance, pursuit,
- 23 apprehension and detention of suspected shoplifters;
- 24 is that correct?
- 25 A Yes, sir.

	Page 37
1	Q And in that role, that's the guidance that
2	Corey Osborne would be expected to follow if he were
3	pursuing a suspected shoplifter; is that correct?
4	A Correct, sir.
5	Q And you would agree that this policy
6	doesn't cover every interaction between Wal-Mart
7	employees and their customers?
8	A Correct, sir.
9	Q For example, I mean, there's nothing
10	stopping a Wal-mart employee from approaching a
11	customer to say "good morning"?
12	A Correct, sir.
13	Q Or for a Wal-mart employee to follow a
14	child that appears to be lost around the store to
15	make sure the child is okay?
16	A Correct, sir.
17	Q Or to follow a customer into the parking
18	lot if the customer left her purse on the counter
19	and forgotten her purse and walked out to the parking
20	lot? There's nothing stopping the Wal-Mart employee
21	from taking her purse to the customer in the parking
22	lot?
23	A Not specifically in this policy, no, sir.
24	Q I mean, that would not fall under AP-09.
25	AP-09 only applies to

Page 38

1	Page 38 MS. INGLE: Calls for speculation. The
2	attorney can't testify.
3	BY MR. VALOIS:
4	Q And AP-09 only calls for dealing with
5	suspected shoplifters; is that correct?
6	MS. INGLE: Objection, it mischaracterizes

8 BY MR. VALOIS:

7

- 9 Q The provisions of AP-09 that deal with the
- 10 pursuit -- surveillance, pursuit, apprehension and
- 11 detention of suspected shoplifters only apply to
- 12 suspected shoplifters; is that correct?

previous testimony as well.

- 13 A Correct, sir.
- 14 Q All right. And so conversely --
- MS. INGLE: My objection still stands.
- 16 This is mischaracterizing previous testimony. The
- 17 witness previously testified this called for insider
- 18 trading which is not shoplifting.
- MR. VALOIS: Well, again, I'll rephrase the
- 20 question again.
- 21 BY MR. VALOIS:
- 22 Q With regard to the specific provisions
- 23 inside Wal-Mart Policy AP-09 that pertain to the
- 24 manner in which Wal-Mart associates surveil, pursue
- 25 apprehend and detain suspected shoplifters, those

Page 39

- Page 39 provisions only apply to suspected shoplifters; 1 2 correct? 3 A Correct. So, Mr. Harris, I'm going to 4 Q All right. ask you to look at where it says, "make safety a 5 priority on this policy." Do you see that, where I'm 6 going up and down right now? 7 8 A Yes, sir. 9 All right. Rather than read all this into Q 10 the record, all right, I'm going to ask you to 11 carefully read each of those bulleted sentences. 12 what I'm going to ask you at the end of that to do is 13 to tell me if at the time you made your 14 recommendation you had any information that 15 Mr. Osborne had violated any of those bulleted 16 sentences. 17 A There are two bullet points I see here that 18 would have been violated on the information that I 19 was given at the time. 20 Q Can you look at the first point and tell me 21 which of those bullets it is? Start at the top and
 - 23 A It would be the sixth and seventh.
 - 24 Q All right. The sixth would be -- can you

count down and tell me which one it is, please.

25 read the sixth one, please?

22

	Page 40
1	A Yes. "Never pat down, frisk or search a
2	subject or a subject's belonging; example, purses or
3	bags."
4	Q So let's go with that. Did you have had
5	you received any information at the time you made
6	your recommendation to terminate Mr. Osborne that he
7	had patted down anyone?
8	A No.
9	Q Had you received any information at that
10	time that he had frisked anyone?
11	A No.
12	Q Had you received any information at that
13	time that he had searched anyone?
14	A No.
15	Q Had you received any information at the
16	time that he had searched a suspect's belongings?
17	A Yes.
18	Q Which belongings had you received
19	information that he had searched?
20	A The customer's vehicle.
21	Q And who told you that Mr. Osborne had
22	searched the customer's vehicle?
23	A The asset protection assistant store
24	manager.
25	Q And what did the asset protection

пипп	13, 3ETH 0II 12/13/2021 Fage 41
1	Page 41 assistant asset protection store manager tell you
2	Mr. Osborne had done during the course of that
3	search?
4	A He had looked through the vehicle.
5	Q In what manner?
6	A In a manner beyond visual, actually
7	physically moved items in the vehicle.
8	Q And you said the next bulleted point is in
9	number 7., "Never pursue a fleeing suspect."
10	Correct?
11	A Correct.
12	Q All right. What evidence did you have that
13	Corey Osborne had pursued a fleeing suspect?
14	A He had passed through the threshold, last
15	threshold of the building in pursuit of what he
16	believed somebody that was being investigated for
17	shoplifting.
18	Q So the act of leaving the building to
19	pursue a suspect is the violation of that policy?
20	A Correct.
21	Q And you had received a report from the same
22	person that Mr. Osborne had left the building to
23	pursue that suspect?
24	A Correct.
25	Q I'm just going to Mr. Harris, I'm going
1	

	D 40
1	to scroll down through the rest of this thing myself
2	just to see if I need to ask you anything else. I
3	don't think so, but I'm just going to run through
4	this thing to make sure.
5	A Yes, sir.
6	Q I think I'm done with this one for now.
7	I'm going to stop sharing. Are we back?
8	A Yes, sir.
9	Q All right. Very good.
10	Now, Wal-Mart also has disciplinary
11	policies; is that correct?
12	A That is correct, sir.
13	Q And I'm going to go ahead and might as
14	well get it out of the way.
15	MS. INGLE:
16	MR. VALOIS: Oh, I'm sorry, Madam Court
17	Reporter, can we admit that AP-09 that I just
18	displayed at Exhibit Number 2, please.
19	
20	(Harris Deposition Exhibit Number 2 was
21	marked for identification)
22	
23	MR. VALOIS: I am now going to show Exhibit
24	6, which is the Wal-Mart disciplinary policy. I'm
25	going to attempt to show that now. Okay.
1	

1	Page 43
2	(Harris Deposition Exhibit Number 6 was
3	marked for identification)
4	·
5	BY MR. VALOIS:
6	Q Can you see that one?
7	A Yes, sir.
8	Q So this is the can you describe what
9	this document is, please?
10	A It is the disciplinary action policy for
11	how to essentially conduct or navigate disciplinary
12	actions for any sort of infraction most typically
13	being policy or process and procedure.
14	Q All right. Well, is it fair to say let
15	me phrase the question a little bit more artfully.
16	Is it fair to say that there are two disciplinary
17	policy documents; one, this one for the employees,
18	and then management guidelines for managers to use
19	when giving discipline?
20	A Typically, yes, I would say that is
21	something you would see.
22	Q And this is the one that tells employees
23	this is the guidance for employees; is that correct?
24	A To my knowledge, yes, sir.
25	Q Well, look at the first sentence down there
1	

- Page 44

 1 and see. Read that first sentence and make sure you
- 2 agree with that statement that this is the one for
- 3 employees.
- 4 A Yes, sir, to my knowledge.
- 5 Q All right. What I'm going to do is, I'm
- 6 going to ask you to read through this document.
- 7 Well, let me ask you, before I do this: Are you
- 8 familiar with this document?
- 9 A Yes, maybe not as it stands currently, as
- 10 the policies are updated fairly frequently.
- 11 Normally, if I'm doing a policy review, I will always
- 12 bring it up each time that it may come into fruition
- 13 for me to be able to use it, as the policies are
- 14 updated very frequently. So even if I made a
- 15 decision from the previous day, I might look it up
- 16 again today.
- 17 Q Okay. That's a good point, and an
- 18 important one. Thank you.
- MR. VALOIS: And for the record, we are
- 20 looking at a document that's been provided in
- 21 discovery to us by Wal-Mart marked WM-Osborne,
- 22 O-S-B-O-R-N-E, 0000055. And this is a policy that is
- 23 dated April 1, 2019. And it has been provided to us
- 24 as the policy that was in force on May 9th of 2020.
- 25 BY MR. VALOIS:

1	Page 45 Q Does that sound reasonable to you, sir?
2	A Yes, sir.
3	Q Okay. What I'm going to ask you to do,
4	here Mr. Harris, you don't happen to have a copy you
5	can put your hands on independently, do you?
6	A If it is a prior policy, then I do not have
7	it.
8	Q All right. Well, then we are going to have
9	to do it the hard way. What I'm going to do is I'm
10	going to leave this screen up, and I'm going to ask
11	you to read this portion carefully. When you get to
12	the bottom, let me know, and I'm going to put it to
13	the next portion, and I want you to read this whole
14	document carefully. And take as much time as you
15	need, please; okay?
16	A Yes, sir.
17	Q But just read this part, and let me know
18	when you're finished with it, and then I'll move on
19	to the next part.
20	A Yes, sir.
21	Q Are you done?
22	A Yes, sir.
23	Q I will scroll it up and start at the next
24	part. Can you read that part and tell me when you
25	have completed reading that part?
İ	

11/31 11 11	io, ociii on 12/10	-
1	A	Yes, sir.
2	Q	Yes, sir.
3	Q	All right. Let me know when are you done
4	reading t	this one?
5	A	Yes, sir.
6	Q	Okay. This section, same thing.
7	A	I have completed that, sir.
8	Q	All right. We will do one more.
9	A	I have completed that, sir.
10	Q	That one.
11	A	I have complete it, sir.
12	Q	Next one.
13	A	I've completed that, sir.
14	Q	I think this is it. I think we're at the
15	end, but	let's make sure. Let me know when you are
16	done read	ling that section, and I will go to the last
17	bit, but	I think it's blank.
18	A	I'm done reading that.
19	Q	Having read all that, Mr. Osborne, I mean,
20	you would	d agree that that policy doesn't provide any
21	means for	an employee to dispute or file a grievance
22	with rega	ard to disciplinary action?
23	A	For a dispute or grievance with an outcome
24	of a disc	ciplinary action that an associate would use
25	the open-	door process?
1		

COREY J. OSBORNE vs WAL-MART EAST

17

	IS, SETH on 12/13/2021 Page 47
1	Page 47 Q Well, I'm asking in this policy here, there
2	is nothing within this policy that provides any type
3	of grievance policy?
4	MS. INGLE: Objection, asked and answered.
5	BY MR. VALOIS:
6	Q You can answer the question.
7	A The grievance policy is not addressed by
8	this policy.
9	Q And it's not right. And that there is
10	no union contract in place in these stores; is that
11	correct?
12	A Not to my knowledge, sir.
13	Q Well, if Mr. Osborne were a a union
14	employee, you would know that before you made a
15	recommendation of termination as a human resources
16	manager, wouldn't you?
17	MS. INGLE: Objection to relevance.
18	THE WITNESS: That's a hypothetical
19	situation that I would only be able to walk through
20	if I was actually in the situation.
21	BY MS. INGLE:
22	Q Well, do you deal with union employees at
23	Wal-mart?
24	MS. INGLE: Objection to this line of

questioning and whether they are unionized.

25

4	Page 48
1	BY MR. VALOIS:
2	Q You can answer.
3	MS. INGLE: It's irrelevant.
4	THE WITNESS: I would deal with union
5	activity if there was union activity to occur.
6	BY MR. VALOIS:
7	Q Are there any union contracts in place at
8	this store?
9	A No.
10	Q And so the open-door policy that you
11	were to which you refer, that provides a means of
12	filing a grievance?
13	A Correct, sir.
14	Q How does an employee avail him or herself
15	of an open-door grievance procedure?
16	A During this time, because I do believe that
17	the policy has some process and procedures have
18	been updated, at this time the associate would bring
19	their issue to their direct supervisor, and after
20	speaking with their direct supervisor if they are not
21	satisfied with the outcome, they may speak to the
22	co-manager at that time as well, would review the
23	situation, once again on not being satisfied, they
24	would take it to the store manager. The store
25	manager would review, and at that point they would be
1	

25

Page 49

HARRI	S, SETH on 12/13/2021 Page 49
1	Page 49 allowed to speak with the market level. And after
2	the market level if they are still not satisfied,
3	they would be allowed to speak with the associate
4	relations group, who would review the entire
5	situation and make a recommendation for the next
6	steps.
7	Q And when employees are disciplined, are
8	they notified of their rights under this open-door
9	policy?
10	A It is posted in the store.
11	Q Where is it posted?
12	A It is going to be posted in the break rooms
13	and in the associate resource center.
14	Q Now, with regard to policies in general, do
15	employees have access to review these policies?
16	A Yes.
17	Q For example, the AP-09 policy we talked
18	about earlier, if an employee wants to review that
19	policy, how does that employee access that policy?
20	Q They would end up getting onto the Wal-mart
21	internal communications group known as it's known
22	as One Wal-Mart now. It might have been referred to
23	as The Wire at that point. At that point you can
24	either go in using the search bar, or if you know the

manual way of getting to the paths of the policies,

Page 50 Page 50

1	then you can research policies that way as well.
2	Q Okay. And to do that, do you have to be
3	inside the store to do that?
4	A It depends on your level of accessibility.
5	For instance, if you're an hourly associate, you need
6	to be on the clock and be able to access things along
7	those lines. If you are salary, you are able to
8	access at any time.
9	Q So Corey Osborne was an hourly associate?
10	A Yes, sir.
11	Q As an hourly associate, he would need to be
12	on the clock and be at the store to access this
13	information?
14	A To my knowledge at that time, he would have

- 15 needed to be. We're still with technology going
- 16 through different things that if he was clocked in,
- 17 he may have been able to use a BYOB device as well to
- 18 look those up, but I can't be positive for that
- 19 period of time.
- 20 Q All right. I'm going to get rid of this
- 21 document and bring up another one; okay?
- MS. INGLE: Paul, before we go to the next
- 23 document, can we take just a brief five-minute break?
- MR. VALOIS: Absolutely. We're off the
- 25 record.

	Page 51
1	
2	(Recess, 11:35 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.)
3	
4	BY MR. VALOIS:
5	Q All right. I'm going to share this
6	document now. Mr. Harris, we're back on the record.
7	Let's put this one up. Okay. Do you see this
8	document?
9	A Yes, sir.
10	Q Do you recognize this document?
11	A Not necessarily, no.
12	Q Are you aware that the Wal-Mart policy
13	AP-09 has subsections?
14	A Yes.
15	Q And are you aware of the that one of
16	those subsections governs court appearances for
17	Wal-Mart associates that are called to testify?
18	A I'm aware of it. I am not in detail with
19	it, no, sir.
20	Q Have you ever seen that policy?
21	A Not that I recall.
22	Q Okay. Well, in that case, I'm not going
23	to I'm going to go back and ignore this document.
24	Were you aware that Mr. Osborne had to
25	testify in court as part of his duties as an asset

Page 52 protection officer for Wal-Mart? 1 2 A As an associate, yes. 3 Q Yes. And are you aware that since his termination, he's still being required to testify in 5 those cases? 6 I was not aware of any cases that he was 7 still testifying for. 8 Q In your role as a -- when you were a human 9 resources manager if you made a recommendation and 10 later learned that the information upon which you 11 made your recommendation was incorrect, what would 12 you do? 13 A There is multiple outcomes of how that 14 would occur. 15 Can you run through those multiple Q 16 outcomes, the multiple possibilities, please? 17 Α It would have to be very general, as I 18 normally operate on making a decision on specifics. 19 So this is, like I said, a very wide 20 hypothetical. If the information is absolutely 21 incorrect, depending on the time lines in which 22 somebody had been dismissed, because I receive open 23 door for reviews sometimes for situations that are 24 longer than -- it's been longer than 30 years in some 25 cases. So, obviously, it may be a decision that

- Page 53 might come back to allowing somebody to be rehired.
- 1
- 2 It may end up somebody being reinstated. It may be
- somebody that may be reinstated with back pain, 3
- depending on how severe the incorrect decision was 4
- 5 made and the impact to the associate or former
- 6 associate.
- Who decides which of those outcomes apply? 7 Q
- Who ultimately makes that decision? 8
- 9 A Once again, it would kind of deal with how
- 10 large the scope or how incorrect the decisions were
- 11 made. That discussion can occur anywhere from --
- 12 between the store in the market level to market all
- 13 the way up to executive level if the situation is
- 14 severe enough.
- 15 Well, let's say -- again, I'm asking you a 0
- 16 hypothetical question here.
- 17 A Right.
- 18 But hypothetically if your decision -- if Q
- you were to learn to your decision to terminate Corey 19
- 20 Osborne as an asset protection officer at the
- 21 Wal-mart on Wards Road was made because of false
- 22 information and you were to learn that, what outcome
- 23 would Corey Osborne be looking at receiving?
- 24 MS. INGLE: Objection, calls for
- 25 speculation.

1	Page 54 BY MR. VALOIS:
2	Q You can answer.
3	A Under this circumstance presently where we
4	are at in the time line and everything, the first
5	thing I would do would be to pair with legal.
6	Q All right. So you would escalate it?
7	A Yes, sir.
8	Q And take it above your pay grade
9	effectively; is that correct?
10	A Yes, sir.
11	Q Mr. Harris, what I'm going to to do now, is
12	I am going to I'm going to take another break, if
13	it's okay with Ms. Ingle, for about 15 minutes to
14	confer with my mom. I think I'm about done with my
15	deposition, but if we could just if we could go
16	off the record for about 15 minutes, I'm going to
17	call her. And then when we come back, I may have a
18	few more questions, but I anticipate we won't have
19	anything lengthy.
20	MR. VALOIS: So we are off the record.
21	Thank you.
22	
23	(Recess, 11:46 a.m. to 11:58 a.m.)
24	
25	MR. VALOIS: All right. Mr. Harris, that's

22

23

24

25

Page 55

Page 55 going to conclude my questions on direct examination. 1 I may come back on what is called redirect 2 3 examination if I have any further questions, but for 4 now, that's going to conclude my questions. 5 **EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANTS:** 6 BY MS. INGLE: 7 Mr. Harris, I do have a question. 8 Q Earlier, 9 plaintiff's counsel asked you some questions about 10 the number of employees sort of under your management 11 and in your capacity as an HR manager, and you gave 12 an estimated head count of 3,000 employees earlier? 13 A Yes. 14 But in the market are there people who Q 15 perform HR functions at the store level? 16 Α There are. We have human resources, and 17 basically generalists at stores. At that time, they 18 were the personnel coordinators. I do believe at 19 this point, once again, they have been re-branded as 20 well, where they are people leads. So they would be 21 able to assist with if an associate had a general

contact their -- whenever any of the policies would,

for instance, say "contact your People Partner" on

this thing, the person to go to would be the people

An associate not only would be able to

HAKKI	S, SETH on 12/13/2021 Page 56
1	Page 56 lead within the store, or they would also be able to
2	contact their direct line of management. And their
3	direct line of management if not able to answer the
4	question, once it gets to the store manager, a store
5	manager will sometimes contact me about you know,
6	even general issues that are not easily able to be
7	found or something that would be a rare circumstance.
8	Q Thank you.
9	And, Mr. Harris, do you know who Michael
10	Berry is?
11	A Michael Berry is the current AP coach at
12	the Bedford store. He was the APASM at the 1350
13	Wards Road in Lynchburg that Mr. Osborne worked at at
14	the time of his release.
15	Q So was Michael Berry the person that
16	reported the incident to you that eventually led to
17	Mr. Osborne's termination?
18	A Yes.
19	Q And is Michael Berry the person that
20	investigated the incident at your direction?
21	A He is, yes.
22	MS. INGLE: I don't have any further
23	questions Mr. Harris.
24	MR. VALOIS: I have no redirect.
25	Will Mr. Harris be reading and signing?

	,	5 57
1	MS. INGLE: Yes, please.	Page 57
2		
3	AND FURTHER THIS DEPONENT SAITH NOT.	
4	SIGNATURE RIGHTS RESERVED.	
5		
6	(Deposition concluded at 12:02 p.m.)	
7		
8	* * * *	
9		
10		
11		
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1	Page 58
2	CHANGES REQUESTED TO THE DEPOSITION OF:
3	SETH HARRIS
4	TAKEN: December 13, 2021
5	
6	
7	PAGE/LINE: DESCRIPTION
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	DATE:
19	SIGNATURE:
20	
21	NOTARY PUBLIC:
22	MY COMMISSION EXPIRES:
23	
24	
25	REPORTED BY: TRACY W. KOSCHARA, COURT REPORTER

1	COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA AT LARGE, to wit:
2	I, Tracy W. Koschara, Court Reporter,
3	Notary Public, eNotary in and for the Commonwealth of
4	Virginia at Large, and whose commission expires May
5	31, 2024, do certify that the aforementioned appeared
6	before me, was sworn by me, and was thereupon
7	examined by counsel; and that the foregoing is a
8	true, correct, and full transcript of the testimony
9	adduced.
10	I further certify that I am neither related
11	to nor associated with any counsel or party to this
12	proceeding, nor otherwise interested in the event
13	thereof.
14	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
15	hand and affixed my notarial seal this 20th day of
16	December, 2021.
17	1 1 1/2
18	Hauf W hoochara
19	10001ala
20	Tracy W. Koschara, Notary Public, eNotary
21	Commonwealth of Virginia at Large
22	NOTARY REGISTRATION NO. 193599
23	
24	
25	

ПАПП	13, 3ETH 011 12/13/2021 Fage 00
1	Page 60
2	Evans & Company
	Post Office Box 11822
3	Lynchburg, Virginia 24506-1822
5	(434) 239–2552
4	(434) 239-2332
5	December 20, 2021
6	G. Bethany Ingle, Esq.
7	Via email: GIngle@littler.com
8	Re: Deposition of SETH HARRIS
9	
10	Dear Ms. Ingle:
11	You will find attached to this email a PDF copy of the deposition transcript of SETH HARRIS and
12	signature page thereto. Please have Mr. Harris print the errata page of the transcript, which printed page
13	will serve as the original signature page. After reviewing the transcript, the deponent should make
14	any changes deemed necessary on the original errata page, noting page and line number of the change
15	desired and a brief explanation of the reason for the change.
16	
	Within 30 days of receipt of this letter,
17	forward the signed and notarized original signature page to Mr. Valois, as well as a copy to Evans &
18	Company at the above address. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.
19	
20	Kind Regards,
21	
22	Tracy W. Koschara, Court Reporter tracy.koschara@gmail.com
23	cc: M. Paul Valois, Esq.
24	
25	

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